



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 3.9 percent for June 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was unchanged from May 2001, but was up three-tenths of a percentage point from June 2000. The number of individuals employed increased from 241,000 in May to 242,000 in June, and an increase occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 9,700 in May to 9,800 in June. The net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* was 1,100 from May to June 2001, and an increase of 14,800 individuals from one year ago. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the June 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

Treasure Valley Table 2: June 2001 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	182,110	6,270	3.4	175,840
Adams	1,660	220	13.4	1,440
Boise	2,540	135	5.3	2,405
Canyon	69,690	3,520	5.0	66,170
Elmore	9,330	570	6.1	8,760
Gem	6,550	560	8.5	5,990
Owyhee	4,240	20	4.7	4,040
Payette	9,880	660	6.7	9,220
Valley	4,350	330	7.5	4,020
Washington	4,510	360	8.0	4,150
Statewide	680,460	32,700	4.8	647,760

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,300 between May and June 2001, and grew by 8,700 jobs since June 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,400 jobs over the month. Job gains were primarily located in *Construction & Mining* (700) and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (400), while the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to experience a loss in growth over the year was *Other Durable Goods*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties

	June 2001*	May 2001	June 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,800	250,700	237,000	0.4	6.2
Unemployment	9,800	9,700	8,600	1.0	14.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9%	3.9%	3.6%		
Total Employment	242,000	241,000	228,400	0.4	6.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	254,200	250,200	239,400	1.6	6.2
Unemployment	9,500	9,200	8,300	3.3	14.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%		
Total Employment	244,700	241,000	231,100	1.5	5.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	235,000	232,700	226,300	1.0	3.8
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	55,200	53,800	54,200	2.6	1.8
Mining & Construction	17,800	17,100	16,600	4.1	7.2
Manufacturing	37,400	36,700	37,600	1.9	-0.5
Durable Goods	28,900	28,400	28,900	1.8	0.0
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,100	3,600	3.2	-11.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	700	1,000	14.3	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,400	2,600	0.0	-7.7
Fabricated Metal Products	7,300	7,300	8,000	0.0	-8.8
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	13,400	13,000	12,000	3.1	11.7
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	1,900	1,800	2,100	5.6	-9.5
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,700	2,100	5.9	-14.3
Other Durable Goods	1,300	1,500	1,100	-13.3	18.2
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,300	8,700	2.4	-2.3
Food Products	5,600	5,500	5,800	1.8	-3.4
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,800	1,700	1,900	5.9	-5.3
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	800	900	12.5	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	179,800	178,900	172,100	0.5	4.5
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,300	12,200	12,000	0.8	2.5
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,500	0.0	4.6
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,500	5,400	5,500	1.9	0.0
Trade	58,800	58,300	55,700	0.9	5.6
Wholesale Trade	13,900	13,900	13,500	0.0	3.0
Durable Goods	8,400	8,500	8,100	-1.2	3.7
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,400	5,400	1.9	1.9
Retail Trade	44,900	44,400	42,200	1.1	6.4
General Merchandise Stores	6,400	6,200	4,400	3.2	45.5
Foods Stores	7,700	7,700	7,900	0.0	-2.5
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,600	15,200	0.6	3.3
Other Retail Trade	15,100	14,900	14,700	1.3	2.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,200	11,100	11,200	0.9	0.0
Services	62,500	61,700	60,000	1.3	4.2
Business Services	14,900	15,000	15,300	-0.7	-2.6
Health Services	18,300	18,100	16,600	1.1	10.2
Hospitals	8,700	8,500	7,400	2.4	17.6
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,800	4,800	4,600	0.0	4.3
Other Services	24,500	23,800	23,500	2.9	4.3
Government	35,000	35,600	33,200	-1.7	5.4
Federal Government	5,200	5,200	5,200	0.0	0.0
State Government	12,700	13,100	11,700	-3.1	8.5
Education	4,100	4,500	3,400	-8.9	20.6
Administration	8,600	8,600	8,300	0.0	3.6
Local Government	17,100	17,300	16,300	-1.2	4.9
Education	11,200	11,400	10,600	-1.8	5.7
Administration	5,900	5,900	5,700	0.0	3.5

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Manufacturing (200). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,000 jobs with *Construction & Mining* (1,200), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,400), and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200) experiencing job gains. *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* remained stable year-over-year, neither gaining nor losing jobs, with every other industry losing jobs year-over-year. *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* lost the most jobs year-over-year with 700 jobs lost.

Service-Producing Industries gained 900 jobs from May 2001 to June 2001. Job gains in *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Eating & Drinking Places* (100), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services* (200), and *Other Services* (700) outpaced job losses in *Durable Goods Trade* (100), *Business Services* (100), *State Government Education* (400), and *Local Government Education* (200) to create a net increase in employment. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 7,700 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*. *Food Stores* and *Business Services* were the only industries to experience a job loss. The most notable job gains over the year were noted in *General Merchandise Stores* (2,000), *Health Services* (1,700) primarily *Hospitals* (1,300), and *Other Services* (1,000).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Albertson's announced in mid-July that the company will close 165 stores, cut between 15 and 20 percent of its managerial and administrative jobs above store level, and consolidate the six regional offices into two. These changes could cut annual expenses by \$250 million. Albertson's officials also stated that more closures and additional job cuts could be announced at a later date. As of this date, the company has not revealed which stores will be closed and who will be laid off.
- The Boise IMAX Theater closed on Aug. 1, 2001. The closure is part of Edwards Theatres' ongoing bankruptcy proceeding to close under-performing theaters. The company is not renewing its contract with the IMAX Corporation.
- In late July, the city of Meridian held a ribbon cutting ceremony that officially opened the Five Mile Creek Pathway. The project was started in 1994 and is a citywide pathway system for walkers, bikers, and rollerbladers. The path extends about a mile between Meridian and Linder Roads. The project was funded through Federal Highway and City dollars, and construction of the pathway was administered by the Idaho Transportation Department.

- United Heritage Mutual Life Insurance Co. moved from its Nampa location to its new location in Meridian in July. The move, part of the company's five-year strategic plan, places the company in the center of the valley, and provides increased visibility from I-84—both desirable goals for the firm. The company will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new location on August 22.
- Studio III, a photography, video and digital imaging business, opened in Nampa in June. Randal Warren and his family operate the business at 1404 N. Midland Boulevard, Suite I. It is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Orphan Annie's reopened at 801 Everett Street in Caldwell in June after a fire destroyed the restaurant in February 1999. The restaurant was rebuilt just like the original and features the same menu.
- Intermountain Community Bancorp opened a business loan office in Nampa in July. The Nampa Business Financial Services Center is located at 521 Twelfth Avenue South, and offers services to support local businesses, agriculture, and community programs.
- In early July, Dennis Hicks opened Treasure Valley Mortgage Consulting in Nampa. The company specializes in saving people money on mortgages.
- MCMS laid off an additional 96 employees in mid-July and announced that more layoffs are possible. This is the latest round in a number of layoffs for the company this year. The cited reason for the layoffs is a collapse in customer demand for electronics. The company also announced the possibility of seeking bankruptcy protection in the future.
- Micron Technology and DuPont Photomasks announced plans to open a \$150 million, 90,000 square-foot facility in Boise next year. A final agreement between the two companies still needs to be signed. The new plant is expected to employ about 150 workers. The new plant will be completed by next fall and will be fully operational by the end of 2002.
- In late June, Micron Technology announced a hiring freeze and cuts in top executive salaries of up to 10 percent in response to the slowdown in demand for computer components. The company normally hires between 100 and 200 people a month. Company leaders hope to save money through these cost saving measures. When the market improves, the company plans to restore salaries and resume hiring.
- ZiLOG announced in late June that it planned to reduce its worldwide workforce by 14 percent by year end, with most of the reductions occurring at the Nampa location due to the consolidation of its

two Nampa fabrication plants and test operations. The consolidation will be finalized by Dec. 31, 2001. The company also announced it will continue efforts to sell its Mod II plant, currently valued at \$3 million.

- Hewlett-Packard announced a layoff of 6,000 workers—more than 6 percent of its workforce—due to worsening economic conditions in the technology industry. No announcement was made on where the layoffs would occur. The company employs 3,800 in Boise, and 86,000 worldwide.
- SCP Global Technology also announced a layoff in late July of 250. Officials state that at least 200 of the jobs lost will be at the Boise facility. After the layoffs, the company will employ 700 in Boise and 150 more in various locations around the world.

Adams County

- In late June, the Adams County Courthouse Restoration Committee received grants totaling \$22,500. The grant monies will be used for a feasibility study on restoring the historic county courthouse. The grant monies were received from Idaho Heritage Trust, the State Historical Preservation Office, the US Forest Service (Rural Community Assistance Grant), and the Idaho Commission on the Arts. ZGA Architects and Planners will perform the study that will include two phases. The first is an analysis of the structure and examination of the roof, windows, exterior, restrooms, public corridors, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems, interior finishes, site improvements, and cost estimates for improvements. The second phase includes an assessment of possible uses for the building, and which uses would be beneficial to and desired by the community. There may be additional phases based on the final outcome of the second phase. The courthouse recently was listed as one of the ten most endangered historic properties in the state by Preservation Idaho, a statewide, non-profit organization.
- In early July, Governor Dirk Kempthorne declared Adams County a drought disaster area. The declaration makes it possible for water right holders in Adams County to apply to the Idaho Department of Water Resources for expedited processing of temporary changes in points of water diversion.
- In mid-June, Western Timber, currently in Washington County, announced an expansion to Council. The firm will open a wood products storage site, and will add 10-15 new jobs that could eventually increase to 30.

Boise County

- In mid-June, the National Ski Area's Association

awarded Bogus Basin the top honor in the "Best Program to Grow the Sport to New Participants" category. Bogus Basin's new Passport Program offered guests the learn-to-ski/snowboard program last season. Nearly 1,600 people participated and all sessions were sold out. The program consisted of a series of lessons, lift tickets, and equipment rentals for \$199. In spite of the Passport Program success, Bogus Basin announced that its season ski pass sales were down 3,000 year-over-year. According to a survey conducted by the resort, the primary reasons for the drop in sales included the worsening economy and low snow pack in the 2000-2001 season.

Elmore County

- Cornerstone Dental opened recently in Mountain Home. Dr. Shane Newton and Dr. Bruce Greenwood share their time between Boise and Mountain Home and see patients Monday through Thursday. Cornerstone Dental is located at 125 South Tenth East Street, offering a variety of services including no-drill laser dentistry, one-hour laser-powered teeth whitening, low radiation digital x-rays, and orthodontic services.
- The Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce (MHCC) will share \$2.4 million in Idaho Regional Travel and Convention Grant funds awarded by the Idaho Travel Council to the 38 regional travel committees, chambers, and other non-profit organizations. The grant for MHCC totaled \$11,259, and will be used for the familiarization tour, an advertisement in Idaho's state travel guide, and an adventure program package in conjunction with SCIRTA.
- In mid-June, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new Idaho Power gas turbine plant in Elmore County. The plant should be operational by August.

Gem County

- In early July, Emmett's downtown revitalization plan kicked off, funded in part by a U. S. Forest Service Grant totaling \$22,000. The grant is administered by the Gem Economic Development Association (GEDA) and distributed by West Central Highlands Resource, Conservation, and Development Council, Inc. (RC&D). Individual businesses, chosen on a first-come, first-served basis, will receive between \$80 and \$2,000 of the grant money. Funds will be used for building repairs, repainting and new canvas awnings where needed.

Owyhee County

- The Marsing Resource Center (MRC) was selected as a site for the 4-H computer lab. The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System 4-H program

and the MRC worked together to receive the grant bringing the Power Up computer lab to the MRC. The lab will consist of 10 to 15 Gateway computers, a printer, and network equipment. Software, technical support, AOL accounts and training also are part of the package. Two site staff will be trained on the Power Up Internet curriculum in Washington DC, which also is covered by the grant. The lab will be installed in December. Power Up is a charitable not-for-profit Delaware corporation that is organized and operated for the purpose of assisting underserved youth to obtain skills, experiences, and resources required to succeed in the digital age.

Payette County

- In late July, work started on a Skate Park in Payette. Forty yards of cement were donated and delivered by City Transfer of Emmett, and volunteer crews were on hand to help with the "first pour." The park needs three more pours of 40 yards each to complete the concrete slab. Carpenter Union Steel constructed the half-pipe — a U-shaped skating ramp — with donated labor, and Treasure Valley Scrap Metals donated the rails and anchors for the half-pipe. The other contributors to the skate park include the City of Payette, Mullinix Engineering, Sav-On Lumber, Intermountain Community Bank, Adam Yagger, Jerry's Market, JYD Builders, and Champion Homes.
- Construction of the new Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Fruitland is nearly completed. The staff planned to move into the new building in mid-August.
- In early July, Governor Dirk Kempthorne declared Payette County a drought disaster area. The declaration makes it possible for water right holders in Payette County to apply to the Idaho Department of Water Resources for expedited processing of temporary changes in points of water diversion.
- In early July, Payette County was granted funding to hire an economic development coordinator, according to Payette County Commissioners. The position is funded through the Rural Economic Development Professional Outreach Program. The grant monies totaled \$30,000. The county will contribute an additional \$20,000 to the arrangement. The total money will be used to help support the coordinator with office space, furniture, and supplies. The coordinator will work with Payette County and its cities to market its economic potential.

Valley County

- The McCall Area Chamber of Commerce received \$80,500 from the Idaho Travel Council (ITC) for promotion of tourism in the area throughout both summer and winter seasons.

The grant was part of \$2.4 million in Idaho Regional Travel and Convention Grant funds awarded by the ITC. The grant will help fund a variety of projects including: an annual activity guide published by the chamber; attendance to trade shows in such industries as snowmobiling and mountain biking; a gathering of snowmobile manufacturers in McCall; advertising on specific websites; support for a project entitled "Fall in McCall"—a promotion tied to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration; and hosting travel writers in the area. The rest of the money will cover miscellaneous office expenses and renovation of the Chamber's Internet website.

- The Wild Bear Pub & Grub opened on July 1. The business, located on Third Street next to Harry's Dry Dock in McCall, is described as a place where parents can feel comfortable bringing their children to eat dinner and also a place where someone can stop by after work for a cold beer at a fair price. The business will operate from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Take-out is available.

Washington County

- In late June, the Weiser National Oldtime Fiddler's Festival came to a conclusion. This year, there were more contestants, more RVs, and more tickets sold than in the past. Strong sales receipts were reported at the recording studio, souvenir shop, and the fiddle building and repair shop, but volunteerism was lower than in recent years.
- In late June, the State of Idaho approved an application submitted by Washington and Adams counties to fund a new economic development specialist position serving the two-county region. The two counties will receive between \$20,000 and \$45,000 to fund a full-time economic development specialist who will work on business retention, expansion, and diversification projects for both counties.

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